

Request for Reconsideration  
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/736,820

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Cnd achieve bonding between two or more planks or tiles. The solvents are commercially available from several sources.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

✓ Please cancel claims 31 and 32 without disclaimer or prejudice of the subject matter set forth therein.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims with the same number in the above-identified application. (A version of the amended claims with markings to show the changes made is also attached).

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B2 1. (Amended) A floor surface covering comprising two or more polymeric flooring planks having edges, wherein said planks are connected to each other by a bonding agent, wherein said bonding agent is present on at least one of the edges of at least one of the planks, and wherein said bonding agent comprises at least one solvent that at least bonds the edges of the planks.

2. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said bonding agent consists essentially of tetrahydrofuran.

3. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said bonding agent consists of tetrahydrofuran.

4. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said bonding agent comprises tetrahydrofuran, cyclohexanone, methylene chloride, dimethyl formamide, toluene, acetone, ethylene dichloride, methyl ethyl ketone, n-methyl pyrrolidone, methyl isobutyl ketone, dipropyl ketone, isophorone, methyl amyl ketone, nitrobenzene, methyl cyclohexanone, acetonyl acetone, or combinations thereof.

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cont. 5. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said bonding agent is present on at least each edge of each thermoplastic plank connected together to another thermoplastic plank.

6. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said bonding agent is present on two opposite edges of each individual plank.

B3 19. (Amended) A floor surface covering comprising two or more polymeric flooring planks and splines located between at least a portion of said polymeric planks, wherein at least a portion of said planks and splines are connected to each other by a bonding agent comprising at least one solvent that bonds at least the spline and plank together, wherein said bonding agent is applied to at least one of the edges of at least one of the individual planks, splines, or both.

20. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 19, wherein said bonding agent comprises tetrahydrofuran, cyclohexanone, methylene chloride, dimethyl formamide, toluene, acetone, ethylene dichloride, methyl ethyl ketone, n-methyl pyrrolidone, methyl isobutyl ketone, dipropyl ketone, isophorone, methyl amyl ketone, nitrobenzene, methyl cyclohexanone, acetonyl acetone, or combinations thereof.

B4 22. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said polymeric flooring plank is in the shape of a tile.

23. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said polymeric flooring plank has a polymeric core with a laminate affixed on the surface of the core.

B5 27. (Amended) The floor surface covering of claim 1, wherein said bonding agent comprises at least two different solvents capable of at least bonding the edges of the polymeric portion of the plank.